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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,946	01/29/2002	Yoshitaka Sasaki	111836	3599
25944	7590	04/20/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			TUGBANG, ANTHONY D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3729	
DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/057,946	Applicant(s) SASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner A. Dexter Tugbang	Art Unit 3729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. The previous restriction requirement is hereby revised and corrected below due to an error on the examiner's part with respect to the invention of Group I. Upon a careful review of the applicant(s) specification, the examiner forgot to include the election of species requirement for the invention of Group I. Any delay in prosecution is deeply regretted.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-3, 8 and 10-18, drawn to a magnetic head, classified in class 360, subclass 126.
- II. Claims 4-7, 9 and 19-32, drawn to a process of making a magnetic head, classified in class 29, subclass 603.07.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

3. Inventions of Groups II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case, product of Group I can be made by a materially different process, such as one that forms the slider or recording head section jointly or integrally with the reproducing head section, as opposed to separately, or one that forms electromagnetic transducer before forming the conductor.

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4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. If applicant(s) elect the invention of Group I, this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

Species A, directed to Figures 1-28;

Species B, directed to Figures 29 and 30;

Species C, directed to Figures 31 and 32; and

Species D, directed to Figure 33.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant(s) should further indentify any generic claims in the invention of Group I.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

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Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

6. If applicants' elect the invention of Group II, restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- A. Claims 5, 21, and 22, drawn to forming a plurality of recording and reproducing heads, classified in class 29, subclass 603.07.
- B. Claims 6 and 9, drawn to forming a conductor and a thin film coil connected to the conductor, classified in class 29, subclass 603.23.
- C. Claims 7 and 20, drawn to forming a magnetoresistive element, classified in class 29, subclass 610.1.
- D. Claims 23-25, drawn to a process of lapping a first medium of the slider, classified in class 29, subclass 603.12.
- E. Claims 26 and 27, drawn to providing an adhesive, classified in class 29, subclass 603.2.
- F. Claims 28-32, drawn to removing a wafer by grinding the wafer, classified in class 29, subclass 603.17.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

7. Inventions of Groups A-F within the invention of Group II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are

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distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, each of the inventions of Groups A-F have separate utility as one, by itself, as recited above. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

8. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and:

the search required for Group A is not required for Groups B, C, D, E and F;

the search required for Group B, is not required for Groups A, C, D, E and F;

the search required for Group C, is not required for Groups A, B, D, E and F;

the search required for Group D, is not required for Groups A, B, C, E and F;

the search required for Group E, is not required for Groups A, B, C, D and F;

the search required for Group F, is not required for Groups A, B, C, D and E;

restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

9. Claim 4 link(s) the inventions of Groups A, B and C and Claim 19 link(s) the inventions of Groups A, C, D, E and F. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), Claims 4 and 19. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction

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requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

10. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

11. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

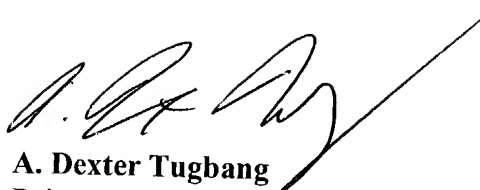
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 703-308-7599. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 703-308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A. Dexter Tugbang
Primary Examiner
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April 19, 2004